

I claim:

1. A resposable container usable for storage, transport, disposal and sterilization of contents, the container comprising:

a) an enclosable area comprised of a series of side panels, a floor panel and a top panel;

b) at least one selectively openable exhaust vent in at least one of the panels; and

c) a laminate covering at least one side of at least one of the panels, where the laminate is compatible with a sterilization process used to sterilize the contents of the container.

2. The resposable container of claim 1 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels.

3. The resposable container of claim 1 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels and the top panel further comprises at least one flap extending from the top panel to cover at least one side panel and the exhaust vent therein.

4. The resposable container of claim 1 wherein the exhaust vent is defined by perforations allowing the user to selectively open the exhaust vent.

5. The resposable container of claim 1 further comprising a rack elevating the contents of the container from the floor panel.

6. The resposable container of claim 5 wherein the rack has a number of passages allowing a sterilant to access the rack and the contents thereon.

7. The resposable container of claim 1 wherein the sterilization process is chosen from a group comprising at least one of microwave, steam-microwave, electron beam irradiation, irradiation, ultraviolet light, dry heat, convection heat, convection steam, gamma irradiation, hydrogen peroxide, ethylene oxide, ozone, steam unwrapped method, steam gravity displacement wrapped method, steam pulse-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, steam pre-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, paracetic acid, chlorine dioxide, gas plasma, formaldehyde-low temperature steam, microwave –bactericide, xenon lamp, glass bead, vacuum ovens, heat conduction ovens, forced air ovens, solvent venting ovens, anprolene gas.

8. A resposable container useable for storage, disposal, transport and sterilization of contents, the container comprising:

- a) an inner area defined by a bottom panel, a series of side panels and a top panel providing selectable entry to the inner area of the container;
- b) at least one selectable exhaust vent in at least one of the panels, providing exhaust of a sterilant sterilizing the contents placed in the inner area;
- c) a laminate covering at least one side of at least one of the panels, where the laminate is compatible with a sterilization process used to sterilize the contents of the container; and
- d) wherein the container protects the contents from contamination during storage.

9. The resposable container of claim 8 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels.

10. The resposable container of claim 8 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels and the top panel further comprises at least one flap extending from the top panel to cover at least one side panel and the exhaust vent therein.

5

11. The resposable container of claim 8 wherein the exhaust vent is defined by perforations allowing the user to selectively open the exhaust vent.

12. The resposable container of claim 8 further comprising a rack where the rack has a number of passages allowing the sterilant to access the rack and the contents thereon.

10

13. The resposable container of claim 8 wherein the sterilization process is chosen from a group comprising at least one of microwave, steam-microwave, electron beam irradiation, irradiation, ultraviolet light, dry heat, convection heat, convection steam, gamma irradiation, hydrogen peroxide, ethylene oxide, ozone, steam unwrapped method, steam gravity displacement wrapped method, steam pulse-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, steam pre-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, paracetic acid, chlorine dioxide, gas plasma, formaldehyde-low temperature steam, microwave –bactericide, xenon lamp, glass bead, vacuum ovens, heat conduction ovens, forced air ovens, solvent venting ovens, anprolene gas.

15

20

14. A resposable container useable for storage, transport, disposal and sterilization of contents, the container comprising:

- a) a series of side panels attachable along one of their marginal edges to respective marginal edges of a bottom panel and along its other marginal edges attachable to adjacent side panels, together the panels comprising an inner area of the resposable container;
- b) a top panel providing selectable entry to the inner area for placement of contents therein;
- 5 e) at least one selectable exhaust vent in at least one of the panels, providing exhaust of a sterilant sterilizing the inner area; and
- f) a laminate placed on at least one of the bottom panel, top panel and inner surface of the walls to protect the contents from contamination.

10 15. The resposable container of claim 14 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels.

15 16. The resposable container of claim 14 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels and the top panel further comprises at least one flap extending from the top panel to cover at least one side panel and the exhaust vent therein.

17. The resposable container of claim 14 wherein the exhaust vent is defined by a series of perforations allowing the user to selectively open the exhaust vent.

20 18. The resposable container of claim 14 further comprising a rack elevating the contents of the container from the floor panel.

19. The container of claim 18 wherein the rack has a number of passages allowing the sterilant to access the rack and the contents thereon.

20. The resposable container of claim 14 wherein the sterilization process is chosen from a group comprising at least one of microwave, steam-microwave, electron beam irradiation, irradiation, ultraviolet light, dry heat, convection heat, convection steam, gamma irradiation, hydrogen peroxide, ethylene oxide, ozone, steam unwrapped method, steam gravity displacement wrapped method, steam pulse-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, steam pre-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, paracetic acid, chlorine dioxide, gas plasma, formaldehyde-low temperature steam, microwave -bactericide, xenon lamp, glass bead, vacuum ovens, heat conduction ovens, forced air ovens, solvent venting ovens, anprolene gas.

21. A resposable container usable for storage, transport, disposal and sterilization of contents, the container comprising:

- a) an enclosable area comprised of a series of side panels, a floor panel and a top panel;
- b) at least one selectively openable exhaust vent in at least one of the panels; and
- c) wherein the resposable container is comprised of a material means for compatibility with a sterilization process used to sterilize its contents.

22. The resposable container of claim 21 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels.

23. The resposable container of claim 21 wherein the top panel is hinged attached to one of the side panels and the top panel further comprises at least one flap extending from the top panel to cover at least one side panel and the exhaust vent therein.

5 24. The resposable container of claim 21 wherein the exhaust vent is defined by a series of perforations allowing the user to selectively open the exhaust vent.

25. The resposable container of claim 21 further comprising a rack elevating the contents of the container from the floor panel.

10 26. The resposable container of claim 25 wherein the rack has a number of passages allowing the sterilant to access the rack and the contents thereon.

15 27. The resposable container of claim 21 wherein the sterilization process is chosen from a group comprising at least one of microwave, steam-microwave, electron beam irradiation, ultraviolet light, dry heat, convection heat, convection steam, gamma irradiation, hydrogen peroxide, ethylene oxide, ozone, steam unwrapped method, steam gravity displacement wrapped method, steam pulse-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, steam pre-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, paracetic acid, chlorine dioxide, 20 gas plasma, formaldehyde-low temperature steam, microwave -bactericide, xenon lamp, glass bead, vacuum ovens, heat conduction ovens, forced air ovens, solvent venting ovens, anprolene gas.

28. A resposable container usable for storage, transport, disposal and sterilization of contents, the container comprising:

- a) an enclosable area comprised of a series of side panels, a floor panel and a top panel;
- b) at least one selectively openable exhaust vent in at least one of the panels; and
- 5 c) wherein the container is comprised of a material compatible with a sterilization process used to sterilize its contents.

29. The resposable container of claim 28 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels.

30. The resposable container of claim 28 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels and the top panel further comprises at least one flap extending from the top panel to cover at least one side panel and the exhaust vent therein.

31. The resposable container of claim 28 wherein the exhaust vent is defined by a number of perforations or scores allowing the user to selectively open the exhaust vent.

32. The resposable container of claim 28 further comprising a rack elevating the contents of the container from the floor panel.

33. The resposable container of claim 32 wherein the rack has a number of passages allowing the sterilant to access the rack and the contents thereon.

34. The resposable container of claim 28 wherein the sterilization process is chosen from a group comprising at least one of microwave, steam-microwave, electron beam irradiation, irradiation, ultraviolet light, dry heat, convection heat, convection steam, gamma irradiation, hydrogen peroxide, ethylene oxide, ozone, steam unwrapped method, steam gravity displacement wrapped method, steam pulse-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, steam pre-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, paracetic acid, chlorine dioxide, gas plasma, formaldehyde-low temperature steam, microwave -bactericide, xenon lamp, glass bead, vacuum ovens, heat conduction ovens, forced air ovens, solvent venting ovens, anprolene gas.

35. A resposable container usable for storage, transport, disposal and sterilization of contents, the container comprising:

- a) an enclosable area comprised of a series of side panels, a floor panel and a top panel;
- b) at least one selectively openable exhaust vent in at least one of the panels; and
- d) a laminate covering at least one side of at least one of the panels, where the laminate is compatible with a sterilization process used to sterilize the contents of the container and where the sterilization process is chosen from a group comprising at least one of microwave, steam-microwave, electron beam irradiation, irradiation, ultraviolet light, dry heat, convection heat, convection steam, gamma irradiation, hydrogen peroxide, ethylene oxide, ozone, steam unwrapped method, steam gravity displacement wrapped method, steam pulse-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, steam pre-vacuum wrapped or unwrapped, paracetic acid, chlorine dioxide, gas plasma, formaldehyde-low temperature



steam, microwave –bactericide, xenon lamp, glass bead, vacuum ovens, heat conduction ovens, forced air ovens, solvent venting ovens, anprolene gas.

36. The resposable container of claim 35 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels.

37. The resposable container of claim 35 wherein the top panel is hingedly attached to one of the side panels and the top panel further comprises at least one flap extending from the top panel to cover at least one side panel and the exhaust vent therein.

38. The resposable container of claim 35 wherein the exhaust vent is defined by a series of perforations allowing the user to selectively open the exhaust vent.

39. The resposable container of claim 35 further comprising a rack elevating the contents of the container from the floor panel.

40. The resposable container of claim 39 wherein the rack has a number of passages allowing the sterilant to access the rack and the contents thereon.

41. A resposable container usable for storage, transport, disposal and sterilization of contents, the container comprising:

- a) an enclosable area comprised of a series of side panels, a floor panel and a top panel;
- b) at least one selectively openable exhaust vent in at least one of the panels; and



The resposable container of claim 45 wherein the rack has a number of passages allowing the sterilant to access the rack and the contents thereon.

46. The resposable container of claim 45 further comprising a tray providing support for the container and its contents.

5